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Zoning Board Upset with Selectmen's Non-Public Meeting

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – The members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) started off their Nov. 27 meeting by questioning the appropriateness of the board of selectmen's decision to call ZBA members into non-public session to discuss a recent matter of protocol, and by unanimously reaffirming the earlier decision that prompted the private meeting.

ZBA chair Don Brown said both he and member Kevin Scott were called into the non-public session under false pretenses, and Brown questioned the legality of what happened.

"It was unlawful. There's a process. If they don't like what's going on, the process

is listed under RSA 677:2. They need to fill out an application for a rehearing. This was not done. However, we are going to take the issue up," said Brown.

The issue was whether Scott should have participated in a hearing for an application from Mike Oleson, who is the town road agent. Scott works as a seasonal part-time subcontractor plowing snow for Oleson.

According to the ZBA, had Scott recused himself from the Oct. 16 hearing, the board would not have had a quorum. The public and membership were asked if they had any objection to Scott sitting, and no objections were raised.

According to Brown, while the majority of the board of selectmen stayed

quiet during the non-public meeting, which took place a few weeks ago, one selectman questioned Scott's participation because of his employment.

Neither Brown nor Scott mentioned the name of the selectman who prompted the non-public session. However, Selectman Mike Weider has long butted heads with Oleson over a variety of issues and Oleson said after the meeting that he considers this a personal attack against him by Weider.

Contacted after the meeting, selectmen chair Steph Landau said he would not comment on matters discussed in non-public sessions but offered some words on the general issue at hand.

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Hampstead School Budget on the Chopping Block

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The Hampstead School Board is prepared to remove up to \$300,000 from the proposed budget of \$23,549,872, and members got a good start on that goal in a special meeting held Monday evening, removing roughly \$106,000 in addition to \$29,233 in savings that came from Pinkerton Academy tuition rates and insurance coverage costs.

Most of the cuts were made to the Facilities Maintenance and Repair budget. Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg and Facilities Director Michael Hall both cautioned the board to consider this step carefully, reminding the board of the deterioration

the Hampstead School District buildings had fallen into because of repeated decisions to put off repairs in years past.

Board member Jim Stewart asked Hall what items in his budget cost more than \$25,000; the answer is the Central School front area slab at \$62,000, Hampstead Middle School gym ventilators at \$60,000 and \$30,000 for HMS locker room ventilators. Stewart made a motion to place these items on the warrant and allow the voters to decide.

He asked Hall if any of these items being delayed or put off for a year endangered students, and Hall said the ventilator projects could go another year without a negative impact. Stewart then withdrew his motion and changed it to

postpone the ventilator projects for a year. The motion was approved 3-2, with Stewart, Natalie Gallo and Jaye Dimando voting to approve and Judy Graham and Greg Hoppa voting to deny. That saved approximately \$90,000.

Budget Committee member Matt Murphy pushed the board to shave \$5,000 off the budget line for oil for the year and another \$5,000 for electricity. Hall said he was not comfortable doing this because of the unknowns of weather and pricing changes but said he could live with it.

The board unanimously approved a motion from Dimando to add \$75,000 to the current School District Capital Reserve fund. This fund is for renovation,

continued on page 15



RINGING IN THE SEASON Charlie Lindsey stands in front of the Chester Congregational & Baptist Church last Saturday to welcome shoppers to the Christmas in the Village craft fair and Tiffany's of Chester. Many crafters throughout the center of Chester opened their doors to holiday shoppers that day. See more photos on page 8.

Photo by Chris Paul

Sandown Building Permit Fees to Rise Jan. 2

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – The fees and costs associated with building permits will go up in the new year. The selectmen approved a new fee schedule at their Dec. 3 meeting, a document that building inspector/code enforcement officer Bob Bogosh and other building officials in Sandown worked on together.

All agreed that San-

dow's permit costs were low compared to surrounding towns, and earlier this year the board of selectmen directed Bogosh and other inspectors to research costs and come up with a plan.

"We have the lowest rates in the area," said Bogosh before presenting the new schedule.

Selectmen agreed after hiring Bogosh that fees needed to be raised, in part because the current structure wasn't covering the

town's expenses and was not consistent for the town or builder.

Basic permit fees have been increased and a new per-square-foot cost has been added. That's a common practice in other towns and will increase what the town and inspector are receiving for payment.

The per-square-foot fee will go to the town, along with a portion of the initial application fee.

continued on page 9

“My Friends Thought I Was Crazy When I Went To A Chiropractor For My Chronic Pain...” “But Soon They Were Singing A Different Tune. Because The Pain I Had Been Suffering From So Long Is Now Totally Gone!”

I'll tell you, even after 13 years of practice, one of my biggest thrills is still hearing one of my patients tell me that...or at least some version of that. And, I still hear it - often. Maybe it's because I seem to attract and help some of the toughest cases of pain people have.

Don't get me wrong, I still enjoy helping everyone, even the easy cases. But it's the really “tough” cases that keep me so passionate about what I do. Things like chronic disabling back pain and sciatica...crippling arthritis pain...crushing migraines and headaches...debilitating neck pain...and the kind of numbness and tingling that makes you feel as though you're constantly being “stuck” with thousands of sharp pins.

You know, the kind of conditions that mostly get covered up by pain medications, but never really go away...at least long term. I see these types of cases in my office - ALL the time. It tears me apart hearing about people living in constant relentless pain...having to pop fists full of pain relievers just to get through the day...and even worse, going from doctor to doctor to doctor without ever really finding a solution to their pain.

But, when these painful conditions can be resolved, it not only restores your quality of life, but it's totally freeing and finally gives you real peace. And that's what really keeps me excited about what I do - seeing my patients finally get their lives back...the lives they enjoyed so much before they were in pain all the time.

Here's the “inside” story: It all starts with methodically, first diagnosing, and then treating the underlying cause of your problem. And, you'll really love the fact that we use the latest, cutting-edge research. Better yet, it works with most cases...regardless of what you've tried in the past...and regardless of your age.

Here's something that you probably weren't even aware of: Many of your neighbors, who were once suffering with relentless and chronic pain are now pain free...or on their way to finally becoming pain free...once and for all.

And...they are no different from you. You see, it doesn't matter if you are older and are riddled with arthritis or if this is your first experience with some kind of painful condition. Often, and in many cases, you can be helped. Better yet, without using prescription drugs that have horrible side-effects and don't really fix the underlying cause of your pain anyway.

You also benefit in other ways too..

It's totally natural. That means you won't have to deal with the potentially dangerous side-effects that medication often causes. Too many doctors rely on drugs that only mask your pain. Our natural treatment methods will get to the “root” of your problem without your ever choking down another pain pill.

It's safe and gentle. Finally, a treatment method that is just as safe for an infant and a senior as it is for anyone in between. Patients even look forward to their treatment each visit. It feels great so why wouldn't you?

Here are some comments from some patients who have been through our

“I haven't felt this good in months...I like the no drugs, all natural benefits”
— Jeanette N, Raymond

“As a first timer to chiropractic, I must admit I had my doubts about its benefits.

I couldn't believe how rejuvenated I felt with each visit, making me wonder what took me so long”
— Steve C, Sandown



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- Tingling and numbness
- Headaches
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- Sciatica
- Arthritis
- Neuropathy

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Sincerely,
Dr. Matthew Swiesz, D.C.

P.S. We can't help everyone but we bend over backwards for the ones we can

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Gift Shop Looks to Move into Chester College Building

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – One of the buildings used by the former Chester College of New England is a couple steps closer to being inhabited again, after the Stein family met with the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) and planning board.

Mother and daughter-in-law Barbara and Michelle Stein are in the process of closing on the property and plan to use the space to move and expand their primitives and antiques shop, Bittersweet Blessings. To do so they need to obtain permission for their intended use, as the college had permission to operate the school in the General Residential and Agricultural District.

The Steins are under agreement with the college to purchase the 2.8 acre Douglas Hall property and are set to close on Dec. 15.

During its Nov. 27 meeting the ZBA unanimously granted the Steins a variance from Article 5, sub section 5.3.4 Prohibited Uses. The ZBA's only condition was that the Steins meet with the planning board to see whether a site plan review would be necessary.

The following night the planning board asked that a basic site plan be drawn up and the process followed. Most members stated their approval of the business and suspected that the review would go smoothly, but noted the need to follow proper process.

The Steins currently run Bittersweet Blessings out of their home on Derry Road, but with recent success, are looking to expand - and to get the kitchen table back from the products of their online business, said Michelle.

The two started the shop after Brenda closed her long-time kindergarten at the same property. Michelle said she and her mother-in-law love shopping for primitives and antiques and after she was laid off, they decided it would be easier to have their own shop. Since beginning it, they've seen steady growth and have built a thriving online presence.

Many agreed during the meetings that the business would make a nice addition to the center of town.

There wasn't any resistance from ZBA members on the property and the shop's intention to operate commercially in the residential zone, primarily because the area is used by various businesses. It was noted that the variance applies only to the Steins' business and should they halt the business or move, the variance would go away. The property is not being rezoned.

“It's a mixed use area of town,” said ZBA chair Don Brown, noting that if the Steins were turned down, inevitably a similar application would come before the ZBA.

“It's a good use of the building,” said Brown.

The biggest issue of discussion was how to categorize the Steins' intended use and what should be granted as far as a waiver.

The plan is to use the historic structure for a storefront as well as storage for online sales, but currently the Steins don't intend to use the building as a residence. Most of the amenities needed to make the building inhabitable as a residence have been torn out. Those who have visited the building noted during the meetings that it had seen better days.

The college, first known as White Pines, had been in operation since 1965, and owns more than 70 acres in the center of town. It closed its doors in May and soon after put its properties on the market. There has been some hand wringing in town about what will take the place of the school, an institution many liked as a neighbor.

At its Nov. 28 meeting, the planning board asked for a basic site plan, but agreed that it didn't foresee public issues arising from the shop. Discussion centered on how to categorize the land use, especially, said planning coordinator Cynthia Robinson, as the planning board's commercial involvement and regulation is usually with new construction or light industrial review.

Michelle Stein said she could have that site plan ready for the planning board's next meeting, as she was eager to move forward with the project.

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Zoning

continued from page 1

"I believe that members of the board of selectmen are looking out for the best interests of the town and don't want to see the town placed in a position that would be detrimental to an individual or to the town as a whole. So I believe there is a right to ask the question," said Landau, adding that questions should not be automatically construed as personal affronts.

According to members of the board of selectmen, Brown and Scott were called to their meeting originally to reappoint Scott to the ZBA, something they had been attempting to get Scott to do for some time. The board asks all new or reappointed candidates to town boards and committees to meet with it prior to sitting.

Oleson was meeting with the ZBA to obtain a variance to the town's frontage requirements for new home construction. The plan he presented to

the ZBA has him subdividing 15 acres that he owns to create two lots for his children to live on. One of the lots has limited frontage. The ZBA, in a split vote, approved Oleson's request on Nov. 27.

The selectmen's non-public session led the ZBA to seek two opinions on their decision to let Scott serve, one from the Local Government Center (LGC) and one from town counsel Dean Eggert. The opinions were not the same.

In summary, LGC's letter states that the ZBA did not err. "The situation and circumstances of the party were acknowledged; the law was presented and discussed and the board acted in good faith and transparency," it states. It also concedes that the selectmen may have a different opinion and under law can ask for a rehearing.

Eggert's letter is more complicated. While on the one hand the lawyer states that the proper procedure was followed by the ZBA,

on the other hand it stated that there was cause to question Scott's participation.

According to the letter, case law does not contain any factually identical cases, but as Scott had a pecuniary interest in the outcome that would differ from other residents, it would disqualify him as a juror if the same matter found itself in a court of law.

The letter also states that it would be difficult to defend any challenge to Scott's participation in the hearing.

Brown said that a 2010 law lecture series he attended informed his opinion that it was reasonable for Scott to sit in. He said Eggert was likely being conservative in his answer, as he would be the one defending the town should it go to court. Brown said that while one could look at the matter through the lens of a judicial proceeding, that was an extra high standard for the ZBA.

That being said, he noted that if the matter were

going to be looked at so stringently, it was important to point out that in small towns like Chester it is very difficult to find someone completely unrelated to the defendant.

"The example they used in this class was the postmaster, which is somebody that everyone in town comes into contact with, so if he happened to go to court over something, virtually the whole town would have to recuse themselves," said Brown.

Coincidentally Scott served for many years as Chester postmaster.

"I've been on this board with Kevin for four years now," said Brown. "I have no doubt in my mind that he's certainly an honest and good person, and if he tells me he has no problem with sitting on this thing, then I believe him. That's all I can tell you."

"I will tell you that when we were called into the board of selectmen, the

whole board wasn't the bad guy," he continued. "Basically one person was doing the talking in this whole thing."

No ZBA member raised a direct issue with Scott's serving on the case on Nov. 27.

Jean Methot said the monetary involvement between Oleson and Scott was very small and was not worth focusing so much on.

"It's just part time. And last year, how many times did you plow? Three, four times? Come on. Give me a break," said Methot.

Cass Buckley said he had no problem with Scott's serving, but did note that prior to agreeing to participate, at an earlier meeting Scott said he would not do so.

Bob Packard said the comparison to a jury in Eggert's letter was out of line. "Things that would disqualify you in a jury don't come into play here," said Packard.

Packard added that Chester was a small town and for example, he had Oleson do carpentry work for him before. "Interaction with other people in town is very common," said Packard, adding that it's up to the individual to assess whether he or she can act fairly.

If Scott had stepped down, the entire review process would have had to start over.

Scott said that in his many years in town, especially because he served as postmaster, there were few residents with whom he had not had direct dealings.

"I appreciate the support of the board. I would like to think that I can give this a fair and impartial decision. And as (Brown) mentioned, it was not the board of selectmen we went in and dealt with. It was a selectman. There was one very vocal selectman and four very quiet selectmen," said Scott.




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Editorial

What Does Rural Mean

As people turn more to raising their own food, requests for keeping chickens on residential properties are on the increase. And even though the expense of housing a horse is one of the first things to reconsider when finances are tight, plenty of Southern New Hampshire homeowners still keep a horse or two on their acreage.

And that acreage has become the question more frequently these days.

Londonderry, for example, has one acre residential zoning along its rural roads but requires two acres to keep animals such as horses and chickens. All buildings, runs and kennels must be at least 25 feet from any property line. Domestic pets are exempt from the requirement that "at no time shall a public nuisance be created as to sight, sound, smell, or any other action which would interfere with a nearby property owner's rights."

In Derry, which has 1, 2, and 3 acre residential zoning among other categories, the ordinance references Best Management Practices for Agriculture in New Hampshire, published by the state Department of Agriculture, and allows livestock - except for pigs, sheep and goats - on lots of at least 1 acre. Buildings, pens, enclosures and dog kennels must be at least 20 feet from any property line.

Hampstead restricts horses and cat-

tle to lots of 4 acres or more, although one large animal can be kept on a 2-acre lot, no more than three on a 3-acre lot, and no more than five on a lot less than 4 acres.

Three towns, and three different sets of rules.

No one wants to see livestock confined to muddy fields with poor shelter and little feed. And how well a horse does on one acre, as opposed to two, has a lot to do with the pasture - and the owner.

It's the duty of local Zoning Boards of Adjustment (ZBAs), appointed by the selectmen or town council, to interpret their town zoning ordinance and address requests for variance. And as the makeup of Southern New Hampshire changes, with more people moving in to seek a rural lifestyle, that definition often includes a horse or chickens. Are 2 acres necessary? Will a horse cause a bigger problem on 1 acre than a dog that spends most of its life outdoors?

It's one thing to interpret the zoning ordinance, which is the ZBA's responsibility; it's another to make sure the ordinance reflects today's lifestyles, which is the responsibility of the voters. And as our towns and our concepts of rural living evolve, we think it's time to discuss what constitutes a rural lifestyle, both for ourselves and for our neighborhoods.

Letters

Thanks for Caring

To the editor:

I appreciate so much that you will publish this poem in the paper:

"Perhaps you sent a lovely card,

Or sat quietly in a chair.

Perhaps you sent a floral piece,

If so we saw it there.

Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,

As any friend could say;

Perhaps you were not there at all,

Just thought of us that day.

Whatever you did to console our hearts,

We thank you so much whatever the part." Anonymous

Katherine Bassett

And the family of Irving C. Bassett

Sandown

Tri-Town Times welcomes letters on topics of local interest, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail letters to tri-towntimes@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Letters are limited to 500 words. The Tri-Town Times reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Firemen's Annual Christmas Parade is Dec. 8 in Hampstead

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The annual Hampstead Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Hampstead Firemen's Association, will be held Saturday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. starting from the Holiday Lane line-up and proceeding down Main Street, turning onto Emerson Avenue and ending at the Fire Station.

Line-up is at 12:30 p.m. at Holiday Lane.

This year's theme, according to Association President Gary Morrison, is the "12 Days of Christmas." Rain date is Sunday, Dec. 9, with all times remaining the same.

Prizes will be awarded for floats. The overall winner gets the President's Trophy, and both a first and second place trophy will go

to the top commercial floats, with the same for the top non-commercial floats. Awards will be given at the Fire Station after the parade.

The center of Hampstead is always jam packed for the parade, with young and old standing along Main Street and at Veterans Park in front of Town Hall. Neighboring towns send fire apparatus, and the sirens from the long line of fire engines, trucks, aerial trucks and rescue vehicles are always deafening, but add to the excitement and fun of the event. Santa Claus and a group of clowns work the crowd, walking the entire parade route and shaking tiny hands and bringing smiles to faces of both children and adults.

After the parade ends, the fire station, emptied of trucks and engines, fills up

with children and grown-ups, and Santa pays a visit. Trophies will be awarded to the winners and ribbons will be given to all participants, and everyone can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

The Hampstead Firemen's Association funds the Christmas Parade with donations from residents and local businesses. The Fire Department is selling 300 Grade A Christmas trees at \$35 per tree to help subsidize the parade. The department provides netting for transport, trunk trimming and fire retardant spray at no extra cost.

After Christmas, those wishing to dispose of their tree after removing their ornaments can bring it to the Transfer Station the second Saturday in January.

Hampstead Fire Chief Reminds Residents to Check Detectors

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - At this time of year, Fire Chief Michael Carrier reminds residents to check their home's smoke detectors to make sure they work and to change the smoke detector batteries. He notes that carbon monoxide detectors should also be installed and if already in place, should be checked just like smoke

detectors.

Placement of at least one smoke detector in each level of a dwelling is the minimum needed, and smoke detectors should be mounted high on a wall or on the ceiling, within 10 feet of sleeping areas.

Carrier also noted that as winter approaches, residents should be focused on generator safety. Fires can occur when improper fueling takes place or when improv-

er wiring is used, and carbon monoxide poisoning can result from the exhaust.

He said portable generators should be used at a minimum of 10 feet from any structure, with the exhaust facing away from the building. Portable generator should never be operated inside a building, and plenty of cooling time should be allowed before refueling. Modified power cords should never be used.



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Sandown Selectmen Both Cut and Add to Budget

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - By the end of their Dec. 3 meeting, the board of selectmen had gone through nearly all of the budget review for this season, but they made decisions during that meeting to scale back on some of the expenditures already approved.

Selectman Brenda Copp noted her concern over what she estimates to be at least a 6 percent increase in the gross budget amount. She said that even though revenues offset much of that increase, her fear is that voters will look at how high the operating budget is compared to the default, and vote down the operating budget.

Copp said that for the last two years the default was higher than the operat-

ing budget, and she'd like to get closer to that scenario this year. She said she's been working with the selectmen's office staff to weed out unnecessary costs, and said she'd like to see about \$90,000 removed from the budget to get closer to the default number.

On her suggestion, the board agreed to pull out \$25,500 for mosquito surveillance and control, a sum that has historically gone to warrant article.

The board also agreed to remove \$5,500 in improvements to the lawn at the public library, another sum that will likely go to a warrant article.

Another \$2,000 was removed that was going toward the purchase of new tables and chairs in the upstairs town hall. It appears that cost can be

covered out of the current year's budget.

And \$6,600 was removed from the buildings account that had been included to cover shortfalls in the cost of construction of a handicapped bathroom in the upstairs town hall. It looks like that money can be found this year in the finance director's payroll line, according to Copp.

Selectman chair Steve Brown said anything they could do to reduce the figure was worth it, and selectman Hans Nicolaisen said voters would understand a reasonable increase.

The board agreed earlier in the night, however, to add funds to the budget in the health care lines to help employees deal with changes to their health insurance plan. Last week the board approved a new

health insurance plan and as part of it, the deductible for a single payer rises from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and for a family, from \$6,000 to \$9,000.

Nicolaisen raised the issue Monday, saying he'd like to half that increase per person by adding \$500 per employee to the town's health insurance reimbursement account. That account holds funds until they are requested by an employee to help cover the deductible. If an employee does not need it, it reverts to the general fund at the end of the year.

"That will help employees absorb the cost," said Nicolaisen.

About \$5,000 of the \$12,000 set aside in the reimbursement account has been used this year.

Copp was against the move, but the rest of the board was in favor. Copp said the town has a relative-

ly young and healthy workforce and questioned if that reimbursement account would be spent.

She also complained that the selectmen were "constantly giving it away" and spending too much.

Brown noted that each selectman was a taxpayer too and none of the decisions they made were taken lightly.

All but Copp voted to approve Nicolaisen's motion to add a total of \$6,500 to the reimbursement account. The benefits account was then approved at a gross expense of \$396,403.48, up about \$40,000 from the current year.

In other business:

- The board declined to approve a motion by Copp to place a cap of \$2,000 on what the town will pay an employee who opts out of the town's health insurance plan. Three of the town's

current employees do this, usually to be covered by a spouse's plan.

Brown said he hated to take money out of the employee's pocket with such decisions and would not vote for it. He noted the small reduction in the budget such a move would amount to. The total it would have reduced the line was \$607.50.

Both Brown and Nicolaisen said the board had already capped that sum at \$2,500, but the practice currently is to give 15 percent of the cost of a family plan.

Selectman Tom Tombarrello voted with Copp, but the motion failed when the rest of the board opposed it.

Another motion to cap it at \$2,500 was approved unanimously. Currently the sum the town pays totals \$2,205.50.



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Early Planning and Funding Urged for Chester's 300th Anniversary

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – In anticipation of Chester's 300-year anniversary Jean Methot, together with the historical society, is looking to make sure the town is ready. On Thursday, Nov. 29, Methot met with the board of selectmen to see about starting a fund now to pay for the event.

There's still a lot of time between then and now, but

Methot was looking back at the history of previous celebrations and said it's going to be a big project to make sure Chester does it right.

The 300th anniversary is in 2022.

The 200th celebration in 1922 saw many people helping to make it a success, said Methot, noting that 30 people were on the executive committee alone. He said groups and societies all around town helped and donated funds. The town set

aside \$638 for the 1922 event.

In 1972, the town held a two-hour-long parade.

There's a lot to think about and plan for, said Methot, and it would be wise to start thinking about it now. For example, in 1922 people came on horseback, but now parking space for a large number of cars will be needed.

He raised several issues: Where to put the tents? Where to park everyone?

How should Chester Street be decorated? Will there be reenactments?

Towns from all around that once were a part of Chester participated in the 200th anniversary.

Methot suggested putting aside at least \$5,000 this year to start.

Selectman Jack Cannon agreed that money should be set aside. Cannon noted that the town had to push the budget for the 100th anniversary of Stevens

Memorial Hall and it would be better to have funds set aside ahead of time.

Cannon added. "\$5,000 is not a lot of money. That's fine."

Chair Steph Landau suggested setting up a trust fund through a warrant article this year to begin the process.

Rhonda Lamphere, noting she is the chair of the budget committee but was not speaking on behalf of the group, said that while

she was 100 percent behind the idea, she thinks it would be better to have plans in place first. Lamphere suggested Methot and others take the year to draft basic plans for the event and then come back to the town next year to begin asking for money.

Methot responded that it was going to take time to come up with plans and to organize a group to do so, and a good first step would be to put some money aside.

Pinkerton Looks at Almost 3 Percent Increase in Budget

KATHLEEN D. BAILEY
Tri-Town Times

Pinkerton Academy's budget for 2013-14 will see a 2.99 percent increase, or almost 3 percent, and a 2.76 percent increase in tuition.

Headmaster Mary Anderson and the Board of Trustees released their budget figures this past week.

The 2013-14 budget as approved by the Pinkerton trustees is \$36,492,484, an increase of \$1,058,959 over 2012-13. The tuition for students from Auburn, Chester, Derry and Hampstead will be \$10,292.49, an increase of \$276.70 per stu-

dent. The tuition is based on a projected enrollment of 3,070 students in 2013-14.

In a phone interview last week, Anderson said the "drivers" of the budget include staff-related expenses. The school is adding three new full-time positions and four part time. In addition, she said, there are health insurance increases and merit increases for staff.

The school is on a private retirement system and is not affected by the downshifting from the state retirement system, she said.

Her technology budget is up by \$150,000, she said, but that is to make sure

"our students are prepared for the world." The school made cuts in the technology budget over the past few cycles, she said, "so this year we are funding it more."

Anderson is adding one full-time science teacher, one full-time Behavior Specialist and one Cosmetology instructor to lead the new Cosmetology program offered in Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Anderson said the behavior specialist will work with children to eliminate problem behavior by a variety of different approaches.

The science teacher was needed, she said, because Pinkerton students are showing a greater interest in science "and our classes are very tight." Many students have expressed interest in going into science, technology or engineering, she said. Anderson is not yet clear on where the teacher will focus or on what discipline, but she's looking at the upper levels, she said, noting that science interest in her current freshmen and sophomores is high.

Anderson said the school will also offer three new courses with existing faculty: Senior Math,

Advanced Placement Studio Art, and Strings. The part-time positions will be in Directed Study Hall, Culinary Arts, and CTE Program Aide.

Anderson said she does what is called "zero-base budgeting."

"We start in May of every year, and every budget in the school starts at zero," she said. "The teachers work with the department heads, and the department heads review the requests. They submit them to the financial administrator and myself. They go to a subcommittee, then the financial committee, then

the full board before being approved.

"Everything is justified as to what is needed," she emphasized.


It is not a "bare-bones" budget, Anderson said, but it is what's needed to run a school of 3,070 students.

"It's what we needed, not necessarily what we wanted," Financial Administrator Glenn Neagle said.

The tuition is comparable to the state average, Anderson said, and her school, the largest high school in New Hampshire, offers "335 courses and unlimited opportunities."

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Students Honored for Essays on 'Making School Great'

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – As part of Celebrating American Education Week and as one component of his effort to focus the direction of the Hampstead/Timberlane School Districts, new Superintendent Earl Metzler sought the view of students on how their schools could be improved. He asked

Hampstead second, fifth and seventh graders to write an essay on the topic "My Role in Making My School Great."

Metzler told the Hampstead School Board at its Nov. 27 meeting that he was excited to read how students saw their role in making their schools great. He said the grade level teachers read through the submissions (90 second grade essays, 85

fifth grade essays and 91 seventh grade essays) and forwarded him the top three at each grade level.

He asked the winners, Central School second grader Avery Becker, Hampstead Middle School fifth grader Marley Mailloux, and HMS seventh grader Molly Remillard, to read their award-winning essays at the board meeting, and presented them with their awards.

Avery wrote in part, "Something I would like to do to make my school even better is helping teachers if they need it. Being a student at HCS is as amazing as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade."

Marley wrote about having a sunny disposition and a ready smile to brighten everyone's day. "I remember when I do those grateful deeds, that the little things can make a big difference in my school...My role in making my school the best it can be is to just be happy and stick a smile onto my face. All you really need to do to make the school great is not bully, say thank you to teachers, smile and be kind and just be a friend."

Molly wrote, "Not only does a great school like Hampstead Middle School need dedicated teachers and

administrators, it also needs active, involved students like me. ...if we have a drug free student body, our school will be successful...No school is perfect and I know that I need to do my part in making Hampstead Middle School great. By doing my part, it can lead to others following my example. I can't stand back and wonder why somebody doesn't make things better; I am somebody. I can make a difference."

Parents of two of the three winners are School District employees. Marley is the daughter of HMS teacher Heather Mailloux and HMS Guidance Counselor Bob Mailloux, and Molly is the daughter of Central School teacher Jenn Remillard,

In other business:

• Hampstead Central

School first grade teacher and second grade teacher Kara Gordon explained the use of iPads in their classrooms to the School Board. They gave the board members iPads to try, and showed by video how the students are using them.

Each classroom at Central School has three iPads, and the teachers work cooperatively so that if one class needs everyone or every two students to have an iPad, they borrow them from other classes.

Both teachers said the iPads are a huge success and help the youngsters with reading, writing and math. The kids use them individually or in pairs or small groups, and their use takes Differentiated Instruction to another level, enhancing what the teachers are doing in the classroom, they said.

School Board Delays Budget Discussion, OKs Building Study

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The School Board, at the suggestion of member Natalie Gallo, deferred budget discussions from its regularly scheduled meeting last week to a work session devoted exclusively to the budget.

The meeting was later scheduled for Monday, Dec. 3 (see related story page 1).

The budget was presented at a previous meeting, with a bottom line of \$23,969,574, a 1.78 percent increase over the previous year. It included the reduction of one classroom teacher and the addition of a Library Generalist and reinstatement of the Assis-

tant Principal position at Central School. The two drivers of the increase, other than salaries, are \$208,996 in retirement costs and \$159,834 as the guaranteed top limit on insurance costs.

At the board meeting Tuesday, Nov. 27, Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg said Pinkerton Academy tuition numbers were in with a savings of \$29,233, based on the previously projected 3 percent increase that turned out to be 2.76 percent. This reduced the overall budget bottom line to \$23,940,341, or a 1.66 percent increase over the previous year.

No further discussions of the budget took place.

The board discussed a

Space Utilization Study board member Jim Stewart wants to have done before any consideration is given to the proposed Breadloaf Phase I construction project at both schools. Board members agreed to have the independent study done, even though the cost would be between \$4,000 and \$7,000.

The board voted to go with the New Hampshire School Administrators Association, which does both demographic and capacity studies, and voted not to exceed \$7,000 for the study. It is interested in Building/Room Utilization Analysis, Space Needs Analysis and Solution Evaluation, among other possible components of the study.

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Hampstead Public Library Gets Boost from Eagle Scout Project

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Jordan Yatsevich, 18, chose to do his Troop 33 Eagle Scout project at the Hampstead Public Library because he has spent so much enjoyable time there over the years.

Yatsevich is home schooled. "I have been going to this library since I was 10," he said. "When I first learned about this project, I knew it was an opportunity to help the library that I grew up in."

He built a bookshelf to hold boxes of items Youth Services Librarian Patty Falconer uses in her craft classes with youngsters. The supports for the shelves are poplar trunks Yatsevich got from his own property, giving the shelves a unique look - or as he put it - "Not something you'd get from Walmart."

Yatsevich said he spent approximately 41 hours on the project, which cost \$330. He said he raised the money by seeking donations; anything over what he

raised from donations for the project he paid for out of his own pocket.

In addition to his scoutmaster, Bill Conte, Yatsevich said he had assistance from Arnie Sheltra, Ben Londrigan, Billy Conte, Jonathan Mangum and Raymond and Jason Touchette.

The Board of Review for Yatsevich and his project will take place Dec. 20 but he expects to share his Eagle Court in the spring with friends who are currently at work on Eagle Projects.



Jordan Yatsevich displays the shelving for storage for the Hampstead Public Library's Children's Room that he built for his Eagle Project. Photo by Penny Williams



Holiday Spirit

Chester crafters and cooks opened their doors Saturday for the annual Christmas in the Village. From far left, Sue and Phil Cassista perform traditional tunes at the Chester Congregational & Baptist Church; across the street at Stevens Memorial Hall, Wayne Ball takes advantage of the opportunity to fill his bag with homemade cookies at the Chester Seniors' cookie walk, and Joanne Millsaps prepares pumpkin bars to serve at the Loaf and Ladle luncheon.

Photos by Chris Paul

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Building

continued from page 1

The costs are as follows: Permit application fee is \$35, with \$15 going to the town and \$20 to the inspector. A building permit renewal costs \$35 if there are no changes from the original. And a \$35 fee per inspection is charged.

In addition to that inspection fee, there is an 8 cents per square foot cost for finished homes. For unfinished homes, that fee totals 6 cents per square foot, and for commercial construction that cost is 10 cents per square foot.

The town will also require a \$40 demolition permit fee, \$40 for sheds up to 144 square feet, \$40 for pool inspections, \$40 for a re-roof inspection, and \$100 for a lift stop work order. If builders start construction without the permits, the costs double.

Bogosh is also looking into requiring a permit for new foundations. That process would require the permit and a follow up certification before approval could be granted.

Though most agreed it was time for a new schedule and that it would be good for the town, selectman

Brenda Copp argued that doing so would increase the bottom line of the coming year's budget and as such should be held off.

Copp said that even though the revenues would offset that increase on the gross side of things, it would add to an already too high bottom line and as such could help lead to voters turning down the budget.

Earlier in the meeting Copp urged her peers to pull out costs elsewhere in the figures (see related story page 5).

"It's not that I don't think it shouldn't be brought up at some point to compare to surrounding towns. It's not that I think either of these gentlemen (building and septic inspectors) deserve to go out to a place twice for inspections and get just \$10," said Copp.

Other board members said it was time to raise the fees despite the increases and that in the long run the move would benefit the town.

Ed Mencis, the town's new septic inspector and health officer, met with the board alongside Bogosh and said it was time to bite the bullet. The increased fees

and costs would benefit the town, he argued.

Selectman Hans Nicolaisen said the decision and its effect on the budget could be explained to voters, and it wasn't worth holding back because of concern that they wouldn't understand the numbers.

"It's all well and good to say we can explain it," Copp said, but added that when it came down to it, it was the people in the voting booth looking at high priced warrant articles and budget increases who make the decision.

"It's unfortunate," said selectman Tom Tombarello. "But we're going to have to sell it."

Tombarello, who also serves as the electrical inspector, argued successfully on Monday for an increase to those fees as well, albeit a smaller one. Tombarello said that in past years, because of the recession, the costs in the inspectors' lines were reduced.

Selectman Jim Devine agreed that the matter could be explained to voters.

Copp also said it was late in the budget season and would be a lot of work to recalculate all of the incidents that go along with

increasing fees and pay to the building inspector, such as benefit costs.

Chairman Steve Brown responded that it wasn't that

much work.

All but Copp agreed to raise the fees.

The new fee schedule goes into effect on Jan. 2.

Senior Dinner a Success

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – The annual Christmas Dinner for Hampstead seniors was a sell-out, with all 325 tickets taken at \$5 each and 320 seniors attending the meal, which took place Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Granite Rose.

According to Angie Ingraham, Hampstead Recreation director, the master of ceremonies was Terry Sullivan. "We also had one of the older Hampstead residents, who has lived in Hampstead for 85 years," she said.

The set-up crew was made up of the Hampstead Middle School Girls B basketball team. Ages & Stage Preschool students provided the centerpieces, and the



Pictured are many of the youngsters and adults who volunteered at the Hampstead Senior Holiday Dinner.

Courtesy photo

Hampstead 3/4 basketball team helped as well.

"We could not put this dinner on without the help of our volunteers," Ingraham said.

The St. Anne choir sang for the diners under the direction of Cindi Verrill.

"The singing provided the attendees with a very uplifting sense of holiday cheer," Ingraham said.

The Hampstead Civic Club gave each senior attending the dinner \$5 back so their meal was actually free.

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Chester Selectman Seeks Way to Keep Police in Town

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER — Selectman Jack Cannon is asking his fellow selectmen to think of ways to ensure that the town's veteran police officers stay in Chester.

At the Thursday, Nov. 29 selectmen's meeting, Cannon noted that Kurt Holston, a two and a half year veteran with the department, recently left for a better paying officer job in another town.

According to police chief Bill Burke, Holston has moved to Brentwood and will be receiving, for base

pay, a couple more dollars an hour than he was making in Chester.

Chester still has three full-time officers serving for between two and three and a half years. One of those officers and the department's sergeant have a decade or more of experience.

Cannon, who is liaison to the police, said he's concerned that the town is in a place where it has more certified, experienced officers, rather than those just out of the police academy, and those employees can command more pay elsewhere.

"We'll lose them," stated

Cannon. He noted that raises aren't always annual and if employees miss a year and then get only 3 percent the next year, they never catch up.

"We're between a rock and a hard place," said Cannon about the need to secure those officers and the cost it takes to do so.

Cannon has asked the financial manager to look into pay structures at comparable departments so the board can work off good data.

Contacted after the meeting, Burke said he was glad Cannon raised the issue, as it's something he

struggles with as the leader of the department.

"I want to take care of the people that take care of me and the people that take care of this town," said Burke.

Burke is proud of his department and the officers in it. He noted that not only is it possible, as in Holston's situation, to move to a neighboring town for a significant wage increase, but the workload may also lighten.

The chief stated that he expects his staff to be out working, and he said the department's statistics prove that they're doing so.

"Our numbers are surpassing every bordering department but Raymond and Derry," said Burke, noting that not only are his officers expected to work when out in the cruiser and behind the desk, but he also

expects a lot of training. Raymond and Derry are larger towns.

Chester police officers are sought-after employees, said Burke. "They know they're getting a well trained guy," he said.

Also, other departments have detectives, said Burke. But that's work that Chester's regular officers take on.

Burke also noted Sgt. Aaron Berube has taken many management and supervisory classes to improve his value to the town. That's something that he should be rewarded for, said Burke. "It's good for us. It should be good for him too," said the chief.

The chief said he would like to work with Cannon and the rest of the board to devise a comprehensive solution and come up with ways to keep the officers happy.

In a previous effort to improve the pay structure in town, under direction by the selectmen, Burke and fire chief Rich Antoine created a wage matrix and presented it to the board in 2008. For a variety of reasons it never got off the ground, but when it was put on hold by the selectmen, it was generally agreed that the plan would continue to be worked on.

The goal of that matrix, according to Burke and Antoine, was to provide officers and firefighters with the knowledge about where they can expect to be paid if they stay with the town. At the time, the budget committee argued that because of its multi-year nature, the matrix amounted to a contract and as such must go before the voters before being approved by the selectmen.

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Trustees of Trust Funds Take on New Financial Planner

MATT RITTENHOUSE
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – The Trustees of the Trust Funds have decided to take on a new financial planner for the town's investment assets and because of that shift, are looking at a higher return on investment in the coming year.

Warren Mackensen of Mackensen and Co. Inc., together with the trustees, met with the board of selectmen Nov. 30 to review plans and to get approval for fees to be paid to Mack-

ensen's company.

The fee for the management services is 0.5 percent of managed assets. While state law allows trustees to pay an advisor out of the income of trust fund investment, it does not specifically allow them to do the same with capital reserve fund investment income. So in addition to the .5 percent, another \$1,000 was set aside to pay for capital reserve fund investment.

Mackensen said his firm has put forward a bill to the state legislature asking it to allow for payment through

capital reserve fund investment.

Increased income from investment is expected from a change to the way capital reserve funds are invested, said trustee Colin Costine, and will be more than enough to offset the fees. While in the past that money was placed into money market funds, the new plan will see it invested in Treasuries and investment grade bonds, said Mackensen.

There's very little risk, he said.

This year the town

received just \$92 from capital reserve fund investment, but forecasts for the coming fiscal year are around \$6,200 after fees.

No performance guarantee was given.

Chester has several large capital reserve funds, including three funds at Chester Academy and two town-owned funds. Most are for unexpected costs throughout the year. For example, both entities have a fund that holds money for catastrophic or unexpected building repairs or maintenance.

Costine and Mackensen explained that while those funds are liquid and if needed can be pulled out of investment quickly, they will be looking to work with the town and school to plan ahead and put reasonable sums of money into investment instruments.

There has been some complaint in recent years about the return on investment of trust funds. The trustees have explained that they are restricted as to how much risk they can take on with taxpayer money and together with the recession, it's why there has been a drop in income in recent years.

It is expected that trust fund investment will tick up next year, but only by a percentage or two.

All town funds are invested together in a variety of instruments.

Costine said those departments that are unhappy with the management of their funds should understand that trust fund income is not expected to see a large rise and they may want to think about invest-

ing them separately if they're unhappy with the return.

Mackensen said he would be happy to meet with any departments that may be thinking about moving their funds.

Some discussion at the end of the meeting focused on how much information townspeople are getting from the trustees. Selectman Jack Cannon complained that the group's minutes are not available in the town clerk's office as required by state law.

Costine explained that all of the minutes are with the state attorney general's office per state law, but tradition did not have those same documents going to the town clerk. He said he would begin sending the minutes there as well. Costine also said he only recently learned that he could have selectmen administrative assistant Pat Martin notice the trustees' meetings for him.

Cannon said he would like to be informed of what the trustees are doing.

Heroes Tree Decorated at Town Hall

PENNY WILLIAMS
Tri-Town Times

For the fifth year, Hampstead is honoring military heroes past and present by hanging stars on a Christmas tree in the Town Hall foyer.

The stars are gold for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, blue for those on active duty or who have served in the past, or black for those who remain missing. They carry the names of the military persons honored. Hampstead has lost three men, Pfc. Matthew Bertolino, killed in Afghanistan in 2006; Capt. Jonathan Grassbaugh, killed in Iraq in 2007; and Ben

Davine, killed in Kuwait.

The local Heroes Tree was organized by the town's Patriotic Purposes Committee. Underneath the tree is a basket filled with blank stars and a pen. Joyce Bertolino, the mother of Matthew Bertolino, invites people wanting to add a name to stop by Town Hall. Anyone unable to come can contact the Blue Star Mothers of New Hampshire at www.bluestarmother-sofhn.org or call Arline Grant at 329-4100, ext. 3.

Taking part in decorating the tree Monday night were Bertolino, Grant, Ret. USAF Lt. Col. Howie Steadman, Leslie Riemitis, Rick

Hartung, Kathe Cussen, and Ted, Paula and David Giblein. Others came and helped as the evening went on.

David, when he was a student at Hampstead Middle School, was a member of its Military Support Club, a club that has been in continuous existence since right after the Sept. 11 attacks, when Kathe Cussen founded it to provide support for troops deployed overseas. The club has more than 188 military friends and continues to send packages. The club members cut

out 150 stars for the tree, helping Bertolino with the task. Cussen said she and her husband, John, put the strings on the stars.

This year, David placed the first star on the tree in memory of U.S. Marine Geoffrey Cayer, a family friend who was killed in Iraq.

By the evening's end, several hundred stars hung on the tree, and before the end of the season, as more stars are added, many branches will be double hung.

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TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

CHESTER

Carol Sing

Livestone Church presents the second "Old Fashioned Carol Sing" and Open House from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, at Stevens Memorial Hall. Visit with neighbors and friends while the kids enjoy activities downstairs from 5 to 6 p.m. From 6 to 7 p.m., a short Christmas movie will be shown, and caroling will take place. For more information, email: info@livestonechurch.org.

Middle School Dance

A dance for Chester residents in grades 5 through 8 takes place Friday, Dec. 14, at the Chester Multi-Purpose Room from 7 to 9:30

p.m. The dance will benefit student travel with the People to People Student Ambassador program. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Raffle tickets are available for purchase for the chance to win an iPad or an iPad mini. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each or six for \$25 (cash and checks accepted for raffle tickets). Winners will be drawn and notified Dec. 15. Every raffle ticket purchaser will receive a free gift at the door. For questions about this event or to volunteer by chaperoning or donating individual nut-free snack items, contact Kristine at 887-2352.

Ham & Beans

The Chester Congregational & Baptist Church holds a Ham & Bean Supper

on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Church Vestry at 4 Chester St. Cost is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12, payable at the door. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit the church. For more information, call the church office at 887-4799 or email chesterchurchoffice@gsinet.net.

Warm Clothing

The Chester Lions Club is partnering with The Warmth from the Millyard Project to collect mittens, hats, new socks and scarves for children and adults. New or used outdoor wear such as jackets, fleece tops and ski pants in good condition, as well as blankets, will be accepted. Items will be donated to local charities. From now until Jan. 15, collection boxes will be at the Town Offices, Stevens Memorial Hall and the Wason Pond Community Center. For more information, contact Colleen at 887-3183 or kittygrammy@mygsc.com

Zumba

Chester Recreation presents Zumba with Amy Hazelton on Mondays at 5:45 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room. Cost is \$55 for 10 classes, \$90 for 20 classes, and \$6 for drop-in per class. Classes can be joined anytime. For a free one-time pass, contact Sharon Mulrennan at 887-5773 or Sharon@chesterec.org.

Senior Wellness

Chester seniors are invited to attend a free Senior Wellness Program with Kim Cremin on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room. For information, contact Sharon Mulrennan at 887-5773 or Sharon@chesterec.org.

Adult Volleyball

Adult Volleyball takes place Wednesdays from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Chester Town Hall multipurpose room, 84 Chester St. The recreational-level program is free, with pickup teams on a gym floor with two nets. For more information, contact Sharon Mulrennan at sharon@chesternhrec.org or call Chester Recreation at 887-5773.

Storytimes

The Chester Public Library, 3 Chester St., offers free Storytimes with stories and crafts every Tuesday at 11:15 a.m. with Mrs. Emily. For more information, call 887-3404.

Breakfast with Santa

Tickets are available for the Friends of the Chester Public Library's annual Breakfast with Santa, set for Saturday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Chester Municipal Center Multi-Purpose Room, 84 Chester Street (Route 121). Admission is \$6 per person, with a maximum charge of \$25 for a family of six. Admission includes breakfast and a free family photo with Santa. Additional photos are available for \$2 each. Crafts, games, holiday stories and raffles are planned, with all proceeds benefiting the Friends of the Chester Public Library. To purchase tickets in advance, visit the Library at 3 Chester St.

Child Find

The Chester School District will hold Child Find Clinics at Chester Academy on March 25, 2013 from 1 to 3 p.m. The purpose of Child Find is to screen the developmental skills of children between the ages of 3 to 6 - those not enrolled in first grade - who may be in need of special education services. The screenings are by school personnel and concern motor skills, speech and language, vision, hear-

ing, and pre-academics. Any parent who thinks his or her child may have difficulties or a delay in any of these areas is asked to call 887-3621, ext. 146 to make an appointment. This service is free and open to all Chester residents. All results are confidential.

Volunteers Needed

The Friends of the Chester Public Library needs volunteers to help the Friends of the Library with its annual Breakfast with Santa. Volunteers are needed to help set up the event on Friday, Dec. 7, from 5 to 8 p.m., and during the event, which takes place Saturday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to noon. Assistance in clean-up will also be needed from noon to 2 p.m. Dec. 8. To help, call Tim at the Chester Library at 887-3404.

HAMPSTEAD

Free Movie

The Hampstead Public Library presents a free movie Tuesday, Dec. 18, about family life in St. Louis at the time of the 1904 World's Fair, starring Judy Garland. The movie is shown twice - at 1:30 and at 6:30 p.m. See www.HampsteadLibrary.org for details.

Adult Storytime

Adult Storytime at the Hampstead Public Library takes place Fridays, Dec. 7 and 21, at 10 a.m. This program is designed for developmentally disabled patrons, but all adults are welcome.

Listener Dog

Johnny Claude the listener dog will be at the Hampstead Public Library for his monthly visit on Monday, Dec. 10, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. He is a certified therapy dog who loves to listen to kids read, tell stories, or act out a book. Sign up for a 15-minute session at the library's front desk or

call the library at 329-6411. Adults are also welcome to visit with Johnny Claude.

Needlework Socials

Needlework socials at the Hampstead Public Library are Fridays, Dec. 14 and 28, from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring a needlework project and work with others. No sign-up is necessary.

Wreath Ceremony

The Town of Hampstead will observe Pearl Harbor Day by participating in the National "Wreaths Across America" ceremony and laying a Wreath of Remembrance on the World War II war monument in Veterans Memorial Park in front of the Town Offices on Saturday, Dec. 15, at noon. Anyone desiring to lay a wreath at any of the monuments is welcome to join in. For further information, contact Howie Steadman, chairman of the Hampstead Patriotic Purposes Committee, at 329-4288.

Santa Home Visits

The Hampstead Lions Club will escort Santa Claus to local homes or parties, and Santa is available for visits all day and evening Dec. 15, 16, 21, 22, and 23 in the Hampstead area. Santa will also be making visits in the evenings, by special request, Dec. 14 and Dec. 17 through 20. The Lions have done this project for several years, with all funds raised going to local charities. Cost is \$30 for 15 minutes or \$50 for half an hour. For further information or to schedule a visit, call Berny Longbook at 329-5603.

Book Discussions

The Non-Fiction Book Group at the Hampstead Public Library will discuss "In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin" by Erik Larson on Monday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. The Third Thursday Book Discussion Group will discuss "The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating" by Elisabeth Tova Bailey on Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. Copies of the books are available at the library's front desk. Newcomers are always welcome.



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K of C Supper

The Knights of Columbus, St. Maximilian Kolbe Council, will prepare and serve an Italian dinner on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. in St. Anne's Church Hall on Emerson Avenue. The menu will include spaghetti, stuffed manicotti, meatballs, sausage, salad, rolls, dessert, and beverages. The donation is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 years of age.

Friends' Sale

The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library have several items for sale, including a canvas tote bags with a picture of the Story

Garden on the front, a small framed print of Sign Island, a larger matted Sign Island print, and two sets of note cards – one with three paintings of the Old Meeting House done by local artists, the other with individual photo note cards. A video of Hampstead history by Don Duston is available as well. The items can be purchased at the library; ask at the front desk.

Christmas Centerpiece

The Flower Guild of Hampstead Congregational Church offers a Christmas Centerpiece Workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in Hadley Hall of the church. Kari Allard of Tulip

Tree Farm will teach how to make a Christmas hurricane globe centerpiece. Cost is \$25 and all materials will be provided. Bring scissors and hand pruners. Reserve early as space is limited. Contact kariallardl@msn.com or the church office at 329-6985.

Library Raffle

The December raffle basket to benefit the Hampstead Public Library features Santa Claus in many different forms. The red and green basket contains wooden Santas, ceramic Santas, a glass Santa, a pewter Santa, a fabric Santa, Santa napkins, a Santa notepad and chocolate Santas. Raffle tickets can be

purchased at the front desk of the library and are \$1 each or six for \$5. The winner will be drawn just before the Friends of the Library's program of holiday music on Dec. 11.

Toys & Clothes

Hampstead Congregational Church, in coordination with the Department of Children, Youth and Families, is collecting new toys and clothing to support local children who are in foster care or whose parents are in need to State services. Unwrapped gifts must be dropped off by Dec. 9 at Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main St. For questions, call 329-3210.

Flute Concert

The Friends of the Hampstead Library's free holiday concert features the Windham Flute Ensemble at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 11, at the library's meeting room. The group of nine flautists performs a variety of music, including light classical, "pops" tunes and holiday favorites. Refreshments will follow the performance. Members of the Friends are asked to stay afterwards for the regular monthly meeting of the organization.

Holiday Tea and Concert

The Hampstead Public Library presents a free Holi-

day Tea and Concert on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with coffee, tea, hot cider, and pastries, along with crafts for children, an award to the person with the best holiday sweater or outfit, and a concert by the women's a cappella Profile Chorus, performing in four-part harmony. The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library is funding this event.

Interfaith Choir Concert

The Interfaith Choir presents "Rejoice and Be Merry" on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m. at Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main St. (Route 121), and

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Happenings

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Sunday, Dec. 9, at 4 p.m. at Londonderry United Methodist Church, 258 Mammoth Road. The concerts are free; a free-will offering is accepted. Refreshments will follow each concert. For more information, call Beth at 432-4786.

Wreath Fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop 33 in Hampstead holds its wreath fund-raiser, the only event the scouts use to help defray the cost of activities, equipment and camping. The scouts sell wreaths, kissing balls and bows door to door within the community. Scouts may come door to door in your neighborhood or items can be purchased via email at jbertz@comcast.net or by calling Jean Lisien at 475-9627 or Bill Conte at 234-1525.

Bridge Club

The new Bridge Club at the Hampstead Public Library is off to a successful start. The club will continue to meet Mondays at 1 p.m. No sign-up is necessary and Hampstead residency is not required. For questions, call the library at 329-6411.

Adult Volleyball

Adult Volleyball takes place Mondays from 8 to 10 p.m. all year at the Hampstead Memorial Gym on Main St. (Route 121). The recreational-level program is free, with pickup teams on a hardwood floor with one net. For more information, contact Dave Murphy at djohnmurphy1@myfairpoint.net or Chuck Wilson at c_wilson@comcast.net.

Giving Tree

A Giving Tree is located near the front desk at the Hampstead Public Library. Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels sponsor a "Santa for Seniors" program that provides Christmas gifts for their Hampstead home delivery clients. Help spread holiday cheer by participating in the Giving Tree program by visiting the tree, taking a card that lists a few gift suggestions, select items from the list and purchase them, and return the gifts to the Hampstead Library by

Dec. 17 with the card affixed to the outside of the package. Call 329-6411 or stop by the library for questions.

Art Show

During December, 40 paintings by local artist Maryellen "Ellen" Muller are on display at the Hampstead Public Library's second floor meeting room. Muller has worked in oil, acrylic, and watercolor paints. Her subjects include portraits, landscapes, and still life. She likes painting children and flowers, and considers her greatest accomplishment to be the four murals in the Children's Room of the Kimball Library in Atkinson. The show closes Dec 27.

SANDOWN

Saturday Matinee

The Sandown Public Library will show the children's PG-rated movie "Arthur Christmas" at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8. Popcorn and Twizzlers will be provided.

Monday Movies

Adults are invited to attend the Sandown Public Library's Monday Movie Series on Monday, Dec. 10, with the showing of "Christmas Cottage." The movie will be shown at 1 p.m. and again at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at both events.

Books & Bites

The Books & Bites! Adult Book Discussion is Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library. The book group will discuss "Death Comes to Pemberley" by P.D. James. Copies of the book are available at the library for everyone interested in joining the book group.

Cupcake Decorating

The Sandown Public Library hosts Cupcake Decorating for children on Saturday, Dec. 8. For ages 9 and above, Miss Jen will teach how to decorate a cupcake at 10:30 a.m. Children will also create a candy treat to take home. Sign-ups are required by calling 887-3428 or online at www.sandownlibrary.us.

Rockin' Readers Book Group

The Sandown Public Library's Rockin' Readers Book Group for all fourth through sixth graders meets Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 3:30 p.m. December's book selection is "The Sign of the Beaver" by Elizabeth George Speare. A snack will follow the discussion.

Cupcake Ornament

Children age 6 and older are invited to the Sandown Public Library on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. to make an ornament that looks like a cupcake. Sign-ups are required online at www.sandownlibrary.us or by calling 887-3428.

Holiday Auction

Sandown North School is planning its Holiday Auction for Friday, Dec. 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the school. For more information, contact Darci at darcianben@yahoo.com or Kara at cheercoachkara@yahoo.com.

Reading Dog

Hawke the Reading Dog will be at the Sandown Public Library on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 3:30 p.m. Hawke is a black Labrador retriever and a trained therapy dog that loves to listen to a story. Children who would like to read to Hawke can choose their own book at the library.

Zumba

Sandown Parks and Recreation offers an eight-week Zumba session on Tuesdays,

now through Feb. 5, at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility, 25 Pheasant Run Drive. Class is \$60 per person for residents and \$65 for non-residents, or pay \$9 per class. Visit www.sandown.us for registration and payment information. Registration must be received no later than Thursday, Nov. 29.

Cribbage & Cards

An evening of cribbage and cards starts at 6 p.m. Tuesdays at the Sandown Public Library, with cribbage, whist, 45s and gin rummy. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Knitting Group

Expert and beginning knitters are welcome to join the knitting group that meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library. Bring a project to work on and share knitting experience with other crafters.

Story Hours

Busy Bears Story Hour takes place at the Sandown Public Library every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. with Miss Jenn.

Adult Volleyball

Adult Volleyball takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. (except school vacations) at the Central School gym on Main St. (Route 121A). The recreational-level program is free, with pickup teams on a linoleum floor with one net. For more information, contact Paul Bernier at

Pionmet@aol.com.

REGIONAL

HU Chant

A Community HU Chant, sponsored by Eckankar, Religion of the Light & Sound of God, is offered Thursday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. and continuing on the third Thursday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org

Eckankar Worship

An Eckankar Worship Service takes place Sunday, Dec. 9, from 10:30 a.m. to noon and continuing the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn, 2280 Brown Ave., Manchester. For more information, call 800-713-8944 or visit www.eckankar-nh.org

Chanukah Party

Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry hosts a Chanukah party on Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring a menorah and latkes to share; games and songs will be offered. Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up and aid with the activities. Contact Jen Cerino at jencerino@comcast.net for information. For more information, call 432-0004.

Visit from Rabbi Emeritus

Etz Hayim Synagogue Rabbi Emeritus Louis Rieser

will be at Shabbat Worship on Friday, Dec. 14, at 7:15 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 15, at 9:30 a.m., he will lead a Shabbat experience of meditation, prayer and study. The synagogue is at 1 1/2 Hood Road, Derry. For more information, call 432-0004.

Renew Clothing Closet

Renew Clothing Closet of Calvary Bible Church is open Dec. 8, the second Saturday of the month, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the church, 145 Hampstead Road in Derry. Arrive no later than 10:30 a.m. to allow time to get clothes prior to the 11 a.m. closing. All clothes are clean and organized. Enter at the Calvary Bible Church marquee sign; Renew is on the right. This is open to all area families in need or on a budget, and Derry residence is not required. Households are limited to 20 of the newest items plus an unlimited number of any other items per visit within reason for household size. A short sign-up is required. Donations of winter clothing and outerwear in good condition are needed at this time, and can be placed in the donations bin by the Renew door at any time. No donations of money are asked or accepted in return for clothing. Contact Renew by searching for "Renew Derry" on Facebook, emailing renewclothing@yahoo.com or calling the church secretary at 434-1516.

Budget

continued from page 1

reconstruction and capital improvement, and the \$75,000 is to be transferred from surplus after the first \$150,000 of surplus is returned to the taxpayers.

The board also discussed at length the new Fund Balance Retention Law. This allows school districts, if the legislative body authorizes it, "to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 2.5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment pursuant to RSA 198:5, for the purpose of having funds on hand to use as a revenue

source for emergency expenditures and over expenditures under RSA 32:11, or to be used as a revenue source to reduce the tax rate."

A special school district meeting would be required, along with a warrant article to authorize the new law, and the net amount retained would be determined annually to ensure it meets the 2.5 percent of net appropriations level. This retention of an unassigned fund balance would not increase the district's appropriation.

District Business Manager George Stokinger recommended the board consider starting out with a minimum amount if it decides to

do anything, and not commit more than \$50,000 to \$100,000 initially. Stewart wanted to consider doing this but the board as a whole wanted more time to think about it from the perspective of the tax impact.

The board also discussed whether the south wing walls at Central School could be done as a stand-alone piece of the proposed Breadloaf construction project, but Central Principal Dillard Collins said the point of the project is to do away with the trailers that he said pose a security risk to students. This was tabled for further discussion.

Stewart also questioned

the proposed 2.5 percent salary increase for administrators and the 3.3 percent increase for other professional staff, but the board decided to address salaries and the Central School assistant principal position issue at the next school board meeting, set for Tuesday, Dec. 11. When the Central assistant principal resigned this past summer, the board decided not to fill the job.

Also put off until Dec. 11 are the proposed changes to the library staffing, which are opposed by Gallo.

Stewart remains hopeful of being able to cut at least another \$150,000 from the budget.



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